

Chairman Milburn & House Fish and Game Committee members,

My name is Russ Kipp, I am a life long resident of Montana residing in Grasshopper valley near Polaris, MT. For those of you that don't know where that is, it's where Montana's Territorial Capital of Bannack is located, just short drive north of Representative Barrett's ranch. I have been a licensed Montana Outfitter operating there for nearly 30 years. I'm also a member of MOGA.

There was an unlicensed illegal outfitting business that flaunted itself for years operating in my hunting area of the Grasshopper valley. The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks did an extensive undercover investigation that put an end to it. In my mind, the penalties **were not adequate** for the amount of "**stealing**" this individual did to me, the licensed outfitter operating in this area and the state of Montana and it citizens!

This individual **did not** have the expenses of purchasing an outfitters license, liability insurance, Forest Service permits, BLM permits or Montana State Lands permits. Nor did he pay workman's comp insurance, unemployment insurance, Montana Lodging tax or Montana income tax on this illegal revenue he collected. In fact, several of the non-resident hunters he illegally guided did not even have hunting licenses or used an illegally transferred resident license **again stealing** from Montana!

What he **did**, was charge less than a licensed outfitter is able to and put more money in his pocket. When it was finally all done and settled, he paid his fines but still profited more than a licensed outfitter. I am sure that this investigation by the Fish and Game cost more that his fines did. This individual operated for several years and his **only cost of doing business** was the fines he paid which were less than I pay in fees each season.

The outfitting industry is a valuable component to Montana's economy contributing \$167,000,000. annually according to a recent study completed by Dr. Norma Nickerson of the University of Montana's Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research. SB100 puts some teeth into punishment of unlicensed people masquerading as legitimate outfitters. These type of people need to be put out of business! I support SB 100.

Russ Kipp
P.O. Box 460473
7501 Pioneer Mountain Byway
Polaris, MT 59746

Ph. 406-834-3469
Email: Russ @mhct.com